

February 16, 1962

Mr. R. Sargent Shriver, Jr.
Edson Lane
Rockville, Maryland

Dear Mr. Shriver:

Happy to say the formalities are now all taken care of in regard to the grant to Stanford, and we can spend more time now on the substance of the research.

It should be of interest to you that Dr. Morrell has been planning a graduate training program in neurobiology involving the participation of members of several departments, both clinical and basic science, for an advanced degree in the scientific foundations of neurology. This should be a useful framework for an important block of the training responsibilities of the Kennedy Laboratories.

You will, of course, have received Dr. Dorfman's proposal in my last letter. I had also discussed this problem--the endocrine bases of mongolism--from a different angle with Dr. Irene Koprowski in Philadelphia. She is an experienced and talented worker in cancer cytology, specializing in the Papanicolaou (vaginal smear) methods for the detection of cervical cancer. The same methods can be used to evaluate hormonal function in pre-menopausal women, but have never before been related to the study of mongolism. To make a long story short, she is applying for NIH support to do just this and has already contacted Dr. Masland. This may help illustrate, again, what I have tried to stress as the interconnectedness of science and the futility of narrow approaches to disease problems. A possibly fruitful byproduct from this venture may be inferred from the fact that Hilary Koprowski is director of the Wistar Foundation at the University of Pennsylvania, and we should profit from his exposure to these problems.

For your and Mrs. Shriver's interest and information I am sending a copy of our application to the NIH to give some idea how I hope to move in the near future. But please regard this as personally confidential until it has cleared NIH review.

I hope to have a chance to discuss the detailed operation of the fluid research fund as we get our program under way. We should also be developing some proposals for appointments as fellows and scholars of the foundation. We are, of course, limited in how much we can do right away by our space needs. However, we can afford to accept some degree of crowding in the anticipation that it will be relieved with the erection of the Kennedy Laboratories.

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Meanwhile I would like to ask your endorsement for the commitment of some of the funds of the fluid research fund appropriately and symbolically as our first action under this program. This is for a medical student tuition scholarship and is detailed in the enclosure. It would not become operative until September, 1963, but we would need authorization now in order to get the information into the catalogue to be of use for the students entering at that time.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:pg

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